

FORT STEVENS SAYS

Answer to Mr. Abercrombie's Deductions.

COMMUNICATION IS SIGNED

Has a Good Deal to Say that Will Interest Foot Ballists in Astoria—Recalls the Aid Always Given this City in Hours that Were Dubious, Etc.

The Astorian is in receipt of the following letter sent the Thanksgiving football game between the Astoria and Fort Stevens teams. It is not a literal copy of the letter which was duly edited as are all letters reaching this office charged with undue personalities. The substance remains and is given publicity, in order that both sides may be heard in the premises:

"Sir—I enclose an article pertaining to the Thanksgiving football game. It is not meant to be a refutation of Mr. Abercrombie's statements. It is merely the views of an interested spectator. Please print in your next edition.

"Thursday, November 30th, Fort Stevens football team played in Astoria to decide a tie game played early in the season.

"The grounds were in poor condition, owing to excessive rainfall. The side and yard lines were almost obliterated. In all other respects, conditions were favorable.

"The first half commenced by a kick-off to Astoria. Probably, the referee failed to notice that, when the Astoria man, carrying the ball was stopped by Lieutenant Cooper he passed the ball to another Astoria player. It may be there is no such thing as a "dead ball" possibly, the officials were blind. One of Astoria's substitutes evidently forgot he was not in the game. He stood on the side lines, coached, directed plays, and even undertook to manipu-

late the yard line. Where were the officials.

"Astoria made several gains upon securing the ball at the kick-off. These gains were easily offset by Fort Stevens. They carried the ball with apparent ease toward Astoria's goal. At no time during the game did Astoria secure the ball from Stevens by holding the soldiers for downs. Was Astoria's representative dreaming when he stated through the columns of the Astorian, that such was the case? "Tom and Jerry" might have accounted for it. Had the first half lasted five minutes longer, Ft. Stevens would have secured a touchdown.

"The second half commenced by Astoria kicking off. Astoria's full back must have seen stars, had weak knees, or something of the sort. He kicked the ball about fifteen yards sending it over the side lines. He certainly did not understand the art of kicking or possibly his feet got tangled. Astoria secured the ball. Why is it that Astoria was not obliged to kick off again, as should have been the case when the ball goes out of bounds on the kick-off. After disputing over this point for at least three minutes, the officials succeeded in obtaining a rule-book. It's strange the officials did not have some one read it for them. If they could read, they did not understand the meaning conveyed. One of the rules stated that in case of "unnecessary delay" the ball should be placed in play by the referee, after time had been taken out. Did this rule cover the disputed point? Did not Captain Watson of the Fort Stevens team ask for time? Instead of observing this rule or even waiting to decide the question in dispute, one of the Astoria players grasped the ball and placed it in play after passing at least ten yards over the regulation distance from the side line.

"Why did not the referee carry the ball out? Why did he allow the ball to be carried over the prescribed distance, thus enabling Astoria to place the ball in the center of the field, directly in front of the goal? Then, why in the name of common sense, did he allow Astoria to line up, and secure a pseudo touch-down, when only one of Ft. Stevens' players was opposing them? Did the officer know that no team is allowed to place the ball in play, unless there is at least five men playing

on the opposing team? Even then, an opposing team after unusual delay, is allowed time to prepare for defense. Where were the officials? Where they asleep or can they even pretend to understand the rules and regulations governing a football game.

As to the man that wrote the article in the Astorian commenting so freely upon the course pursued by the Fort Stevens team, he ought to "go away back and sit down." Since when has the length of a football line been increased? According to the way he figured the gains made by Astoria, that field must have been one hundred and twenty one yards in length or else it is possible that Astoria made a touch-down and did not know it. Has he forgotten how to add or did he ever know how?

"If Astoria is so confident of defeating the Fort Stevens Football Team, why is it they will not play a return game on a neutral field with neutral officials? Where are their laurels, if they refuse to uphold them? The brilliant writer in the Astorian failed to mention the fact that Astoria's football management did not even allow the Fort Stevens team the losers percentage of the gate receipts. Was that sportsmanlike? Does he know the meaning of the word? Does he call it fair? Will any candid gentleman call it such? Did Stevens show a yellow streak when Astoria secured their best players when they played at Multnomah? Who made it possible for the Astorians to have the fastest hose team on the coast? Why did Astoria cancel the game with Seattle? Simply because Astoria could not play and win without our players. Captain Watson of the Thirty-Fourth prevented Multnomah from gaining a touchdown. Where were the Astoria players at that period of the game? Have not the soldiers always aided Astoria in every way possible? Why should they be misrepresented?

"John V. Rowan, private 93 Co., Coast Artillery, Fort Stevens, Oregon. An interested spectator."

The best place in the city for regular or short order meals is the Palace Restaurant; private dining rooms for ladies and careful attention given to each and every patron. Commercial street, opposite Page building.

DEMOCRATS UTTER AN INITIAL CAMPAIGN FALSEHOOD

ACCUSE ASTORIAN OF DOUBLE DEALING IN FIGHT

Letters Upon Which Charge is Predicated Are Published In This Issue to Prove the Lie and Its Animus.

THIS PAPER ABSOLVED FROM ACCUSATION AND NAILS TRICK

No Attempt Has Ever Been Made to Dictate or Influence the Personal Vote of Liquor Dealers—Letters Written to Counteract Any Organic Work by Them in Campaign—Justifiable Procedure Against Dirty Work by Pro-Gambling Forces—Let the People Judge the Equities Raised.

The Democratic powder is quite dry now. A pinch of it was exploded through the megaphonic columns of its morning letter-press yesterday; and as usual with the Democrats, the essential element of the whole alleged expose was left out of the report. Mr. Dellinger's letter to Manager Crofton is not published. They claim it was destroyed: All right, here is the sum and substance of it, as it left the writer's hands, taken from memory as no copy was kept:

"ASTORIA, OREGON, NOVEMBER 18, 1905.

"MANAGER A. CROFTON, PORTLAND, OREGON:

"MY DEAR SIR:—IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH YOU, SOMETIME AGO, YOU SAID THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION WAS AGAINST GAMBLING AND IN FAVOR OF LAW AND ORDER.

YOUR KINDRED ASSOCIATION HERE THE ROYAL ARCH, IS OPPOSING THE REGULAR REPUBLICAN TICKET IN THIS CITY, IN THE INTEREST OF GAMBLING AND DANCE-HALLS, AND UNLESS THEY LET UP ON THIS THEY ARE LIABLE TO RUN UP AGAINST TROUBLE. I WOULD RESPECTFULLY ADVISE THAT YOU COME DOWN HERE AND STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT SO THAT THEY WILL KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF, AS AN ORGANIZATION.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
J. S. DELLINGER."

To this letter Manager Crofton of the Brewers and Wholesale Liquor Dealers Association of Oregon, replied in the following terms, to wit:

"PORTLAND, OREGON, NOVEMBER 20, 1905.

"MR. J. S. DELLINGER, ASTORIA, OREGON.

"DEAR SIR—THIS ASSOCIATION IS NOT VERSED ON THE MUNICIPAL FIGHT IN ASTORIA, HAVING DECIDED SOME TIME AGO TO ALLOW THE LIQUOR INTERESTS THERE, WHO HAVE A GOOD ORGANIZATION, TO HANDLE IT ENTIRELY AS THEY SAW FIT. IT WILL BE A MATTER TO BE DEEPLY REGRETTED IF THE LIQUOR MERCHANTS SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO FORCE UPON ANY COMMUNITY ANY POLICY REPUGNANT TO DECENCY OR IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

"IT WOULD ALSO BE A MATTER TO BE REGRETTED IF ANY POLITICAL PARTY SHOULD SEE FIT TO NOMINATE, AS ITS REGULAR TICKET, CANDIDATES WHOSE SOLE IDEA OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS TO RESTRICT AND PERSECUTE THE LIQUOR MERCHANTS.

"YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE HOPE NEITHER THE ONE NOR THE OTHER OF THESE SITUATIONS OBTAINS IN ASTORIA, AND IF THE TICKET TO WHICH YOU REFER IS ENTITLED TO THE SUPPORT OF THE DECENT CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT OF OUR BUSINESS, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU LAY THEIR CLAIMS FOR SUCH SUPPORT BEFORE THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROYAL ARCH AT THEIR NEXT MEETING. YOURS RESPECTFULLY,

"A. CROFTON, MANAGER."

This is the predicate upon which the Democratic organ seeks to found a charge of double purpose and deception against Mr. Dellinger as a leading Republican and as the proprietor of the only Republican paper in the city. It is too silly for deliberate enlargement, but in justice to the Republican party, of which Mr. Dellinger is a devoted and active member, and for the sake of maintaining its record in this campaign, it is expedient to say a few words as to the motive that inspired the correspondence here published:

In the first place, it may as well be understood now, as later, that this paper is not trying to dictate the vote of the saloon men in this city, nor is it endeavoring to even influence that vote. The saloon men of Astoria are the best judges of their own status in this fight and capable of gauging the effect of their personal and collective alignment, now, upon their future standing and business. The Astorian has never had any fight to make on the saloon men of the reputable sort; it's files for the past year will plainly indicate this; but it has a fight coming on the Democrats and their trailers as against their proclaimed and undenied policy of opening up this town to the vicious vagaries of the gambler and the dance-hall man and this fight will be uncompromisingly fought till the last hour of the campaign, and then some. In its course of avowed opposition to the leaders of this abnormal issue, the man who directs the policy of this paper had the unqualified right to take such steps as he deemed fit at a certain juncture, to deter the saloon men and others, AS AN ORGANIZATION, from taking a hand against the popular will of this community, and he did it. That is all there is to the hue and cry of the megaphonic organ.

As to the sneer that this paper is putting up a plausible front to the decent citizenry of this city, and also trying to allure the support of the vicious element, the 1905 record of the Astorian is a bald and defiant answer. This paper has made one fight for decency and the correction of public morals in this city and won it and it is going to win another. It is too late in the day to accuse the Astorian of overt purpose or action in such a contingency as now exists. Its record is made and its present course is in strict conformity with that record. It is flatly and unquestionably against the plan of the Democrats to throw off the restrictions now operative against the two

most community evils known, the open gambling den and the other incarnations, the open dance-hall. On this head there need be no controversy. If there is any dust-throwing in this campaign it will come from the papers without any record; this paper is committed to the decent end of this fight and will not fudge on a single element of its fixed relation and pre-conceived alliances, whether it wins or loses on the 13th day of December.

The gamblers and the dance-hall men have been active in striving to force the saloon men, (that is, the respectable dealers), to declare themselves as allies with the Democratic line-up for an "open town," and to prevent such an organic coalition the letters upon which this article is based, were written. Their publication in no way interferes with the work the Astorian has set itself to perform, and no malicious contravention of its purpose will deter it for a single moment, in prosecuting, to the final end, the defeat of the bold and corrupt object of the Democrats and their controlling owners. There may be some, not given to scrutinizing political methods, that do not know the real purpose of the Democrats in making this fight, and for their benefit we will say again that their sole purpose is to lay a precursory ground-work for carrying the June election, by holding the municipal leverage in January. To do this, they think the most alluring bait possible is a "wide open town," and it is for a venal minority. To hide the actual design from too precocious eyes they give every possible turn and twist to their public utterances in an attempt to smother the real and certain motives that actuate them. It is too late for them to enter a formal denial of the charge that they intend to OPEN THE CITY WIDE; no one would credit the denial now, and they are forced to use the same kind of stuff they projected yesterday, to attain to any public attention at all. Let the legal mind that conceived and brought forth this poor attempt to belittle an honest fighter come again. The people will take care of him and his coadjutors and the Astorian will help them do it, cheerfully.

FOR COUGH AND COLD.

Nothing is better than syrup tar and wild cherry. 25c and 50c a bottle. Sold by the Owl and Eagle Drug Stores.



Our Stock of Furs Is Still Complete

What is more acceptable for a present to a lady than a handsome fur? Our prices on furs are lower than ever, because they have been better bargains for us. Look them over at least. Ladies cravenettes still reduced in prices.

Millinery

Selling out all hats, every one must go at a price. Street and trimmed hats. Our trimming season is nearly at an end. We will not carry over a hat.

Childrens and misses street hats for

25c



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Rain Coats and Umbrellas

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AT ONE THIRD LESS THAN REGULAR PRICE

Comes at a good time too, just when the rainy season is fairly begun.

Prices: 35c to \$4.50

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All ladies and childrens trimmed and untrimmed hats going at

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